May 12, 2024 | Flash Brief

Israel Establishes Eighth Field Hospital in Gaza

Latest Developments

Israel **announced** on May 11 that it opened an eighth field hospital in Gaza — this one in central Gaza. The development comes as the Israeli military encourages Palestinians located in Rafah to move into humanitarian zones in anticipation of an expanded offensive to locate Israeli hostages and root out the terrorist organization Hamas.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the Coordination for Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), the Israeli government agency responsible for coordinating aid to Gaza, **constructed** the field hospital in the Deir al-Balah area. The non-governmental organization International Medical Corps and a team of 150 international medical aid workers will **operate** it. Israel **facilitated** entry of medical staff, medications, beds, food, water, tents, and other humanitarian aid for the field hospital.

The IDF says it has already **evacuated** 300,000 Gazans from Rafah to humanitarian zones as of May 11. For months, the Israeli military has been **preparing** what it describes as "humanitarian islands" where evacuating Gazans can access food, shelter, and medical care outside of Rafah. Israel has been closely coordinating with the United States, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates on an operational plan to move large numbers of Gazans from Rafah to these areas, *The Wall Street Journal* **reported** on April 22.

Expert Analysis

"Israel has facilitated the establishment of multiple field hospitals in Gaza — including hospital staff and supplies — while Hamas continues to fire rockets from densely populated civilian areas, targeting humanitarian crossings and Israeli civilians. This is the reality of fighting a genocidal regime that exists only to destroy the Jewish state and places no limits on the number of its own people it is willing to sacrifice to achieve its goals." — ***Enia Krivine**, Senior Director of FDD's Israel Program and National Security Network*

"As Hamas attacks pathways for humanitarian aid, Israel continues to expand its support for the people of Gaza. The United Nations-Hamas narrative doesn't match the reality on the ground." — ***Richard Goldberg**, FDD Senior Advisor*

Israel Now Supports Eight Field Hospitals in Gaza

In coordination with allies and partner organizations, Israel has now helped to **establish** eight field hospitals in Gaza since Hamas's October 7 massacre in southern Israel. The Israeli military says that some of these field hospitals **relocated** to the humanitarian zones following the IDF's May 11 evacuation order for eastern Rafah. COGAT **notes** that one additional field hospital is under construction as of May 12. In the past, the Israeli military has received **recognition** from the United Nations for the excellent quality of its army field hospitals established during various humanitarian missions around the world.

Related Analysis

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